

REMARKS

The Office Action mailed October 29, 2002 has been reviewed and carefully considered. Claim 7 has been amended. Claims 7-10 and 12 are pending in this application, with claim 7 being the only independent claim. Reconsideration of the above-identified application, as herein amended and in view of the following remarks, is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action dated October 29, 2002, claims 7-10 and 12 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,460,855 (Anderson) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,743,330 (Tillotson).

The present invention relates to a self-adhesive woven glass fiber fabric wallpaper sheet which includes a sheet of woven glass fiber fabric comprising woven strands. As recited in independent claim 7, at least one of the sides of the woven fabric has raised points where the woven strands cross. Independent claim 7 also recites that the self adhesive property of the wallpaper is achieved by a thermoplastic permanent adhesive which is applied to the woven fabric so that it adheres only to the raised points on one side of the fabric, thereby forming an interrupted layer. The amount and viscosity of thermoplastic adhesive applied are designed so that the thermoplastic permanent adhesive is prevented from penetrating the fabric and contaminating the second side of the glass fiber fabric. Independent claim 7 has been amended to include the following recitation: "said thermoplastic permanent adhesive comprising a permanently tacky characteristic allowing mounting of said glass fiber fabric wallpaper sheet directly onto the wall substrate by said thermoplastic permanent adhesive". Support for this recitation is on page 2, line 24 to page 3 line 1 of the specification.

Anderson discloses a process for manufacturing floor and wall coverings in which a barrier layer is formed which inhibits the migration of underlying organic stains into the

decorative portion of the floor and wall coverings. Anderson lists many different type of floor and wall coverings to which the barrier layer can be applied including woven substrates including glass fibers (see col. 3, line 61 to col. 4, line 7). The barrier layer disclosed by Anderson includes plastisol and sodium silicate (col. 2, lines 49-52 and col. 5, lines 9-10). Since the barrier layer prevents migration of underlying organic stains, the barrier layer must be continuous, i.e., solid layer. As stated in the Office Action, Anderson is silent regarding adhering a woven glass fabric wall paper to a substrate. Accordingly, Anderson fails to teach or suggest a self-adhesive wallpaper.

Tillotson fails to teach or suggest what Anderson lacks. Tillotson discloses a laminated carpet 62 having a carpet 12 and a secondary backing fabric 52. Accordingly to Tillotson, an adhesive is applied as a coating on the secondary carpet backing for laminating the secondary carpet backing to the carpet layer 12 to form the carpet laminate structure 62. Since the adhesive is applied between two layers of a laminate structure, Tillotson also fails to disclose a self-adhesive wallpaper. The problem being solved by Tillotson is to prevent the use of excess adhesive (col. 1, lines 32-60) in laminate carpet structures. The carpet 12 and secondary backing 52 are fed from supply rolls to a combining roll 54. Before the secondary backing fabric 52 is to the combining roll, a layer 83 of adhesive is applied thereto at a casting roller 81 (col. 3, line 67 to col. 4, line 2). After being combined at the combining roll 54, the secondary backing 52 and carpet 12 are passed through a compression station 100 (col. 4, lines 33-38). Tillotson further discloses that the adhesive has a tendency to be squeezed through the secondary backing fabric (see col. 4, lines 39-49).

Tillotson fails to disclose, teach, or suggest, a self-adhesive glass fiber fabric sheet having a thermoplastic permanent adhesive arranged thereon in an interrupted layer, wherein the

thermoplastic permanent adhesive has a permanently tacky characteristic. Tillotson discloses a carpet, not a wallpaper, and discloses only an adhesive used to hold two layers of a laminate carpet together. Tillotson also fails to disclose an adhesive that has a permanent tacky characteristic because the adhesive of Tillotson is applied between two layers of a laminate carpet. Once the carpet layer 12 and the backing layer 52 are adhered together, there is no need for the adhesive in Tillotson to remain tacky. If the laminate of Tillotson is to be mounted on a wall substrate, a further adhesive is required. Accordingly, there is no teaching or suggestion that the adhesive of Tillotson remains tacky so that it may be used to mount the substrate of Tillotson to a wall substrate, as recited in independent claim 7.

Furthermore, Tillotson fails to teach or suggest that the amount and viscosity of the adhesive are designed to prevent penetration of the adhesive through a fabric. Rather, Tillotson only teaches that when the adhesive is applied, it should be applied only where the secondary backing layer makes contact with the carpet layer. Moreover, Tillotson admits at col. 4, lines 39-49 that the adhesive is squeezed through the secondary backing layer 52. Accordingly, there is no teaching or suggestion that the amount and viscosity are controlled to prevent penetration through a fabric, as recited in independent claim 7.


In view of the above remarks, it is respectfully submitted that independent claim 7 is allowable over the combined teachings of Anderson and Tillotson. Dependent claims 8-10 and 12, being dependent on independent claim 7, are allowable for at least the same reasons as independent claim 7.

The application is deemed to be in condition for allowance and notice to that effect is respectfully solicited.

It is believed that no fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the present application; however, if any fees or charges are required at this time, they may be charged to our Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 03-2412.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: January 28, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION AND CLAIMS SHOWING CHANGES

In the Claims:

Please amend claim 7 as follows:

7. (Amended) A self-adhesive woven glass fiber fabric wallpaper sheet, comprising:

a sheet of woven glass fiber fabric comprising woven strands and having a first side and a second side, at least said first side having raised points where said woven strands cross; and

an interrupted layer including a thermoplastic permanent adhesive adhering only to said raised points of said first side of said sheet of glass fiber fabric [for holding said sheet of glass fiber fabric to a wall substrate], wherein an amount and a viscosity of said thermoplastic permanent adhesive are designed for preventing the thermoplastic permanent adhesive from penetrating said glass fiber fabric and contaminating said second side of said glass fiber fabric, said thermoplastic permanent adhesive comprising a permanently tacky characteristic allowing mounting of said glass fiber fabric wallpaper sheet directly onto a wall substrate by said thermoplastic permanent adhesive.